

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JOSEPH
D. MATHIS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a South Carolinian who distinguished himself on the athletic field and as an educator, coach, minister and community activist. The late Reverend Joseph D. Mathis is being inducted into the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame on May 23, 2011, and will be honored for his lifetime of accomplishments by the Rainbow Push Coalition on May 14th. I add my voice to those honoring Reverend Mathis, who made tremendous contributions to the State of South Carolina.

Joseph Mathis was born August 28, 1922, in Cordele, Georgia, to Elnora Huggins and A.C. Mathis. He was reared in the home of his maternal grandparents, Lula Taylor Huggins and the Reverend Harrison Huggins, Sr. During the Great Depression, Reverend Mathis moved to Greenville, South Carolina with his family, where he graduated from Sterling High School. Despite the financial obstacles, help from others enabled Reverend Mathis to attend Benedict College and Allen University, where he earned a degree in History. He was a standout player and captain of the football team at Allen University, which went undefeated during the regular season of his final year.

Mathis returned to Greenville following his graduation, and took a job at his alma mater. From 1946 to 1970, Reverend Mathis taught health, physical education and social studies at Sterling High. As their coach he led the Sterling Tigers football team to regional fame and three state championships between 1946 and 1961. Reverend Mathis also served as athletic director and coached baseball, girls and boys track and basketball at Sterling High. Coach Mathis always emphasized athletic fundamentals, conditioning, and academic excellence. In 1992, he was inducted into the Piedmont Athletic Hall of Fame and was first nominated to the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame.

During the tumultuous years of desegregation, Reverend Mathis took on the responsibility of serving as the Assistant Principal of Greenville High School in 1970. He held that position until 1974. He later taught Social Studies at League Middle School and worked as a placement coordinator at Donaldson and Enoree Vocational Schools before retiring in 1977.

In addition to his commitment to education, Reverend Mathis was equally committed to his faith. He served as a Trustee and Sunday School Superintendent for many years at Israel CME Church in Greenville, and in 1961, he gave up full-time coaching in order to accept the call into the ministry. Reverend Mathis was ordained a Christian Methodist Episcopal minister under the pastorate of Reverend R.O. Langford at his home church. He pastored Young Laymen in the Nicholtown community for 31 years, and Mount Olive CME Church for ten years. In 1993, Reverend Mathis retired from the ministry after thirty-one years of service.

Another of Reverend Mathis' passions was civic involvement. When he earned his mas-

ter's degree from Atlanta University, his master's thesis was entitled "Race Relations in Greenville, South Carolina, from 1865 through 1900, as Seen in a Critical Analysis of Greenville City Council Proceedings." His studies compelled him to organize African American voters in Greenville in the 1960s and 70s. He also served with distinction on the Greenville City Council from 1979 to 1983, where he worked to improve public transportation, to include minority contractors in public work, to bring Municipal Stadium and the Braves to Greenville, to improve police pay and to annex Verdae Place to the City of Greenville.

Reverend Mathis and Kittle Mae Avery were married in 1948, and they shared a strong union until her death in 1991. The couple had two daughters, Janice (Thaddeus) Allen and Davida (Harry) Johnson, and three grandchildren. Reverend Mathis passed away in 2002 at the age of 80, but his legacy lives on through his family and in the countless people he touched through his service over his lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing the remarkable life of Reverend Joseph D. Mathis. He remains a tremendous example of an unsung hero. Reverend Mathis dedicated himself without reservation to his faith, his community and his profession. He excelled in all these arenas and is a remarkable role model for future generations to follow. It is my honor to provide this posthumous recognition of his many accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HAROLD
BLACKMAN, DIRECTOR OF THE
CENTER FOR ADVANCED EN-
ERGY STUDIES

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Harold Blackman, an Idahoan who has made a difference. When the Battelle Energy Alliance was selected by the Department of Energy to manage the Idaho National Laboratory, the contract called for the development of a research institution to link the Lab to the three Idaho state universities—the University of Idaho, Idaho State University and Boise State University. Ultimately, Dr. Harold Blackman was chosen to serve as Director of the Center for Advanced Energy Studies and a landmark institution in Idaho began to come together.

The Center for Advanced Energy Studies, or CAES as it is known in Idaho, brings INL researchers, university faculty and students, and industry together to partner in research and development activities. At the outset, Harold faced the challenge of getting the three Idaho universities to view the Lab as a partner and, perhaps the even more difficult challenge to get the three schools to work together. Previous efforts to bring our national labs and universities together in lasting partnerships have not always been successful and were it not for Harold Blackman's patient manner and his willingness to listen, learn and implement, CAES would have been another failed attempt. Instead, CAES is a smashing success and much of the credit goes to Harold Blackman.

CAES has developed into a state of the art research facility with world class equipment that gives its researchers a competitive advantage pursuing research proposals. Also, the partnership is helping fill the pipeline for the next generation of energy professionals. At a time when Idaho, like every other state in the Union, is facing severe budgetary pressure, Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter and the Idaho Legislature have continued to provide funding to support university faculty participation in CAES. Through CAES, Idaho universities have increased the role they play supporting nuclear energy research in the US, and undergraduate and graduate student enrollment in nuclear engineering classes has soared. As a result of the expertise and credentials of the staff Harold Blackman has assembled, CAES now administers the Department of Energy's Nuclear Energy University Program which funds R&D, fellowships, scholarships, and infrastructure investments across the country. In addition to fostering a new collaborative climate between the Idaho universities, Harold Blackman and CAES were instrumental in establishing a high-speed network researchers could tap into across the state.

The Center for Advanced Energy Studies is a model for national laboratory, university and industry collaboration and Harold Blackman deserves a large amount of credit for making this institution a success. Harold will now be tackling new challenges at INL, and I am sure he will bring his exceptional professionalism, listening skills and commitment to success to these new tasks.

Thank you, Harold.

HONORING FRED DAVIS JACKSON

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Fred Davis Jackson of Richmond, California, for his lifetime commitment to serving his community.

Fred Jackson has lived and worked in my congressional district since 1950, a veteran, having moved to Richmond from his home in Mississippi. He was born on February 6, 1938 as the eldest son of devoted and hard working parents, the late Leo Marvis Jackson, who was a seasonal construction and shipyard worker, and the late Idella Villon Jackson. Mrs. Jackson would eventually become single and took on domestic jobs to care for Fred and his three sisters and five brothers. Fred Jackson is a peacemaker, an educator, a song writer and a true community-builder, and each and every day since arriving in the Bay Area, Fred has made a decided difference in the lives of our residents.

Early on in his life, Fred Jackson recognized and celebrated the personal dignity in each individual. His work crossed all race and ethnic lines, all faiths and all ages. As a peace and social justice activist, Fred sat in at lunch counters in the South during the 1960's Civil Rights Movement and worked for peace even as he served our country in combat duty during the Vietnam War.

Fred Jackson is known throughout Contra Costa County as a dedicated advocate for our